

GAME PREVIEW
MICHIGAN Wolverines

HOMETOWN HEROES
SEWARD Nebraska

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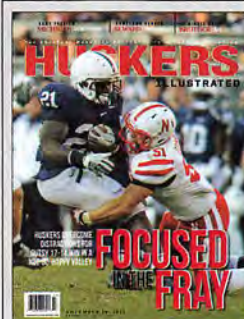
THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Emotional Pelini displays proof that life is bigger than game

2011 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
SEPT. 3	CHATTANOOGA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 40-7
SEPT. 10	FRESNO STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	6:00P.M.	W, 42-29
SEPT. 17	WASHINGTON	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 51-38
SEPT. 24	@ WYOMING	LARAMIE, WYO.	6:30P.M.	W, 38-14
OCT. 1	@ WISCONSIN	MADISON, WIS.	7:00P.M.	L, 17-48
OCT. 8	OHIO STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7:00P.M.	W, 34-27
OCT. 22	@ MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS	2:30P.M.	W, 41-14
OCT. 29	MICHIGAN STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11:00A.M.	W, 24-3
NOV. 5	NORTHWESTERN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	L, 25-28
NOV. 12	@ PENN STATE	UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.	11:00A.M.	W, 17-14
NOV. 19	@ MICHIGAN	ANN ARBOR, MICH.	11:00A.M.	ESPN/ESPN2
NOV. 25	IOWA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11A.M.	ABC



ON THE COVER

Will Compton records one his team-leading 13 tackles with a hit on Stephfon Green of Penn State in Nebraska's 17-14 win at Beaver Stadium. The Blackshirts held Penn State to 375 total yards in a gutsy win over their new designated rival in the Big Ten Conference. Despite being in different divisions, the teams will play each year.

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 31, Issue 18, the Michigan recap and Iowa preview will be mailed Monday, Nov. 21. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

HUSKERS HELP HEALING PROCESS

First league game between Nittany Lions and Huskers proves to be memorable

I HAVE TO ADMIT, I wasn't too excited about traveling to State College, Pa., for this week's game. When I watched several thousand Penn State students take to the streets earlier in the week, I questioned whether Nebraska should play in this game.

But canceling this game would have been a mistake. This game needed to be played.

A number of Nebraska fans were concerned about the reception and the treatment they would receive when they arrived at the game. But based on what I could see, from touring the area around the stadium, Penn State fans were in a state of shock and disappointment. The last things on their minds were the visitors from Nebraska.

The Penn State fans I observed, seemed to want to celebrate the career of the senior class and remember Joe Paterno, without defending his lack of action from the scandal that forced him out of his office.

The fans I saw were wounded.

I watched Penn State fans from the field during a moment of silence for victims of child abuse. I studied their faces when the team came on the field, without its coach who had been at the helm since 1966.

Most were silent. A number cried. But they all hurt.

But in the end, the fans, the university



and the football program needed this game to begin the healing process.

Obviously, a football game can't repair the damage that was done to victims or their families. But this game raised awareness of a serious problem in the United States. And maybe Saturday's game, played under such an intense national spotlight, will help prevent future instances.

Nebraska running backs coach Ron Brown led a prayer for both teams, which met midfield before the game. It did the near impossible, creating an incredibly, raw, honest and personal moment in front of over 107,000 in attendance.

Defensive end Cameron Meredith said it was a very special moment.

"Two different universities, great football programs just coming together, forgetting about football for one second, coming together as people, as humans to reflect on what happened. I thought it was really cool," Meredith said. "We all held hands and prayed together, I thought it was unique."

And at that moment, hopefully the healing began. It will be a slow, long road back, but Nebraska was lucky to play a small part in the recovery. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.





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ANDREW GREEN



AARON GREEN



BEN COTTON



JAKE COTTON



JAKE LONG



SPENCER LONG



BROTHER ACT

BY MIKE BABCOCK

No, Andrew Green wasn't overly concerned the first time his brother, Aaron, saw action at Nebraska. "I know he's a pretty confident person, so I really wasn't nervous for him," Andrew said.

Aaron Green is a true freshman running back. Andrew is a sophomore cornerback in his third season. They're among five sets of Husker brothers this season, including three sets of twins.

As with the others, there's no sibling rivalry between the Green brothers.

"It's real good having him here," said Andrew.

The same is true for Aaron, who was discouraged the first time he didn't see action in a game, the second of the season against Fresno State. Having his brother on the team helped.

"I was down on myself," Aaron said. "My brother was there for me, to talk to me, comfort me, make sure everything was all right, just telling me things were going to get better.

"I'm here for him the same."

After the Washington game, for example, Andrew "was a little down on himself," said Aaron. "He came over to my locker . . . we had a good little talk, just to boost each other's confidence, get each other ready."

That time, Aaron told his brother what his brother tells him, "don't listen to everybody else. Remember that we have one audience and that's God. Just remember that," Aaron said. "He tells me a lot of things, but when things get down on him, he tends to forget."

They also encourage each other on the sideline. After Andrew broke up a pass earlier this season, Aaron "gave me a little handshake and stuff like that," said Andrew. "He was like, 'Good job.'"

"I don't know, it's just real cool to be like . . . just ask each other how we're looking out there, like, 'Did you see this play' or 'Did you see me running,' something like that."

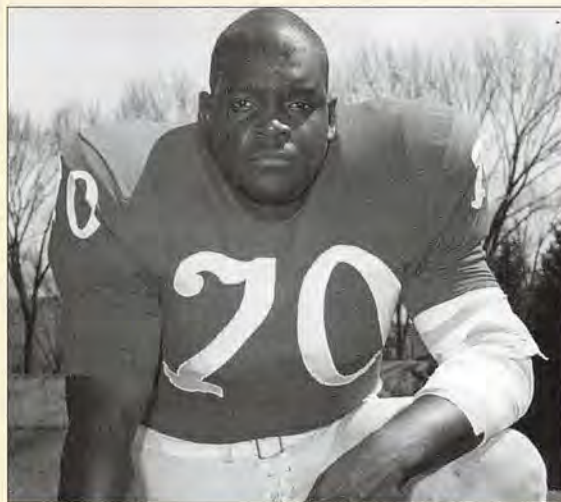
HUSKER SIBLINGS

Aaron Green, RB	5-11, 190	Fr.	San Antonio, Texas
Andrew Green, CB	6-0, 190	So.	San Antonio, Texas
Ben Cotton, TE	6-6, 255	Jr.	Ames, Iowa*
Jake Cotton, OL	6-6, 295	RFr.	Lincoln, Neb.
Jake Long, TE	6-4, 240	So.	Elkhorn, Neb.
Spencer Long, OG	6-4, 305	So.	Elkhorn, Neb.
Colin McDermott, FB	6-2, 250	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
Conor McDermott, DE	6-2, 255	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
Courtney Osborne, S	6-3, 200	Jr.	Garland, Texas
Steven Osborne, WR	6-4, 210	Jr.	Garland, Texas

*Attended high school there

HI'S TOP5

FIVE FROM MICHIGAN



Nebraska was especially successful recruiting in Michigan under Bob Devaney, who was from Saginaw and coached at the high school level there before being hired as an assistant at Michigan State. Devaney assistants Jim Ross and Mike Corgan also had coaching roots in Michigan high schools. Corgan initiated the recruitment of Donnie McGhee (pictured), an offensive lineman at Northwestern High in Flint. McGhee, who earned first-team All-Big Eight recognition on the Huskers' first national championship team, was the youngest of four sons. His father worked for General Motors for 34 years. Devaney's Saginaw roots allowed him to relate to players such as McGhee, who once said he succeeded because of "dedication and probably respect for Bob Devaney, not wanting to let him down. I could have been stuck in Flint, Mich. Pressure? I didn't think it was pressure. I had a burning desire."

Here are five other notable Huskers from Michigan.

- 1 WAYNE MEYLAN, MG (1965-66-67)**
BAY CITY
- 2 FREEMAN WHITE, E (1963-64-65)**
DETROIT
- 3 ED PERIARD, MG (1968-69-70)**
BIRCH RUN
- 4 JERRY LIST, TE (1970-71-72)**
BAY CITY
- 5 DAVE WALLINE, DT (1968-69-70)**
YPSILANTI

ERIC THE CAVEMAN

P.J. SMITH was **ERIC MARTIN'S** host when Martin came to Nebraska for his recruiting visit. "They said they call him 'Caveman.' I said, 'Damn, he looks like a caveman,' and just like that, he was talking like, 'Yeah, you know,'" said Smith, who was bobbing his head and laughing as he recalled his first meeting with Martin. "I was like, 'Yeah, he's a caveman.'"

Martin is "a great teammate, great guy to be around," Smith said.

The junior from Moreno Valley, Calif., had a red Mohawk haircut for a time. Smith told him he needed to cut it off. "He said, 'Shut up.' He told me to shut up," said Smith.

Caveman keeps his teammates smiling, according to Smith. It's in his nature. But on the field, he's all business, a "freak," Smith said. "The coach will tell him to run through a brick wall, (and) Eric will put his head down and try. He probably won't get through it, but he will try.

"That's the type of guy he is."

TAKES A POUNDING

Running backs coach **RON BROWN** has described **REX BURKHEAD** as the Energizer Bunny. He just

keeps on going. No question the junior running back from Plano, Texas, is tough. "I see him in a cold tub every 5 minutes," said senior wide receiver **BRANDON KINNIE**. "He's a 'tub dude.' So he recovers well and takes care of his body as well. Seeing that from him is the same-usual for us."

SPEED MATTERS

Husker secondary coach **COREY RAYMOND** played six seasons in the NFL, with the New York Giants and Detroit Lions. So he knows how NFL teams evaluate defensive backs.

Senior cornerback **ALFONZO DENNARD** has shown the skills and toughness to play in the NFL, no doubt about that. He's a potential first-round draft pick. The question is "can he run? That's what they're going to want to know," Raymond said of NFL teams. "You'll see guys (in the NFL) coming from other schools you've never heard of. That's going to be his thing; what's his 40 time?"

So much emphasis on a 40-yard dash time isn't always good "because they might miss out on a good player," said Raymond. "But that's how they measure guys."

SIDELINES

GAME FOR THE AGES

Sports Illustrated picked the five best regular-season college football games matching the nation's No. 1- and No. 2-ranked teams in its Nov. 7 issue as a lead-in to the LSU-Alabama game at Tuscaloosa. First on the list? You have to ask? The Nebraska-Oklahoma "Game of the Century" on Thanksgiving Day 1971 (See Games Remembered in this issue). The game lived up to the hype, SI says.

The others in Sports Illustrated's top five: No. 1 Texas 15, No. 2 Arkansas 14, Dec. 6, 1969; No. 2 Notre Dame 31, No. 1 Florida State 24, Nov. 13, 1993; No. 1 Notre Dame 10, No. 2 Michigan State 10, Nov. 19, 1966; No. 1 Ohio State 42, No. 2 Michigan 39, Nov. 18, 2006.

Richard Rothschild, writing for SI.com the same week, had a different top five. The Nebraska-Oklahoma game in 1971 was still atop the list, however.

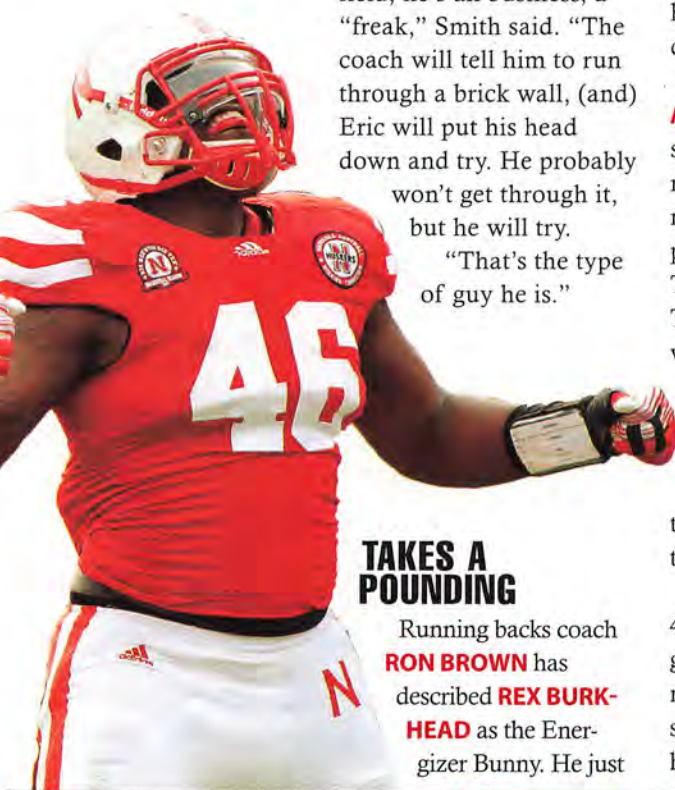
LEAN ON ME

The transition from high school to college is difficult enough without leaving high school early. But **JAMAL TURNER** is among those at Nebraska who have done it, with a little help from new friends.

"When I first got here, the only thing I really did was try to build relationships," said Turner. "And I really admire **BRANDON KINNIE**. He just took me in

as a little brother and kind of helped me through, like, the hard times with classes and (helped) keep my head leveled up, as I should say.

"So I leaned on him and other players; **TAYLOR MARTINEZ**, me and him are really close. **BRION CARNES** is one of my best friends, **THADDEUS RANDLE**, I had these really good relationships with the players, and they kind of helped me get adjusted to college life."



Tyler Legate on blocking for Rex Burkhead:

YOU HEARD IT

"You've got to get two or three people to the ball to bring him down, so I'm just trying to block the best I can so that he can get as many yards as possible because I kind of live through him. When he breaks a big run, it's like, 'Atta boy.' He's definitely fun to play with and on top of that, he's a great guy, too."



KEVIN KUGLER

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NO TIP-TOEING

What's the most important trait for a kick returner? Being aggressive, according to freshman **AMEER ABDULLAH**, "hitting the holes hard," he said. "It's not all about just flat-out speed, like Devin Hester."

"Every kick returner has speed. But it's not all about that."

Hester plays for the Chicago Bears, of course.

Abdullah studies other kick-off and punt returners but "not so much **DEVIN HESTER**," he said. "That guy, he's just pure speed. I watch **DESEAN**

JACKSON. Me and him, we like to make guys miss before we really get going. So I really watch and critique his game, try to add some of his game to mine.

"Also, I watch **JOE MCK-NIGHT**."

Jackson plays for the Philadelphia Eagles, McKnight for the New York Jets.

A kick returner has to have patience as well as aggression, "two things that kind of offset each other," said Abdullah. "But I feel like that's the key two things you should have."

NO PIRATES FAN

Sophomore cornerback **ANDREW GREEN** was among those who earned a Blackshirt for the first time following the Michigan State game. "I think it means a lot," he said. "It shows, like, hard work, and it just really shows how together as a unit a defense can be."

Green had to learn about what a Blackshirt meant. "I really didn't have (a) sense of it until I got here and witnessed it my freshman year," he said.

Appropriately enough, Green wore a black hoodie and a black baseball cap to interviews at the Huskers' weekly news conference on the Monday after the Michigan State game.

The cap was a Pittsburgh Pirates cap. He isn't a Pirates fan, however.

"I just like the hat," Green said. "I'm not really much into baseball."

DECREASED NUMBERS

During fall camp, defensive line coach **JOHN PAPUCHIS** talked about rotating players. "We would think rolling four guys in a game is pretty realistic, maybe a fifth," he said.

"It's a little bit harder to get beyond that, depending on what's going on in the game, obviously."

At the time, rotating four defensive tackles seemed a good way to keep players involved. Now, finding healthy tackles is challenging. **JARED CRICK** has been lost for the season, and **THAD RANDLE'S** status remains in doubt, leaving **BAKER STEINKUHLER**, **TERRENCE MOORE** and **CHASE ROME** from the original five.

And Rome didn't play against Northwestern because of a muscle pull.

After Crick's injury, redshirted freshman **JAY GUY** began working with the top units, and junior **JUSTIN JACKSON**, who had been moved from defensive tackle to the offensive line, was moved back to defense. The junior walk-on from Roca, Neb., saw action in the Northwestern game, after having played in only three games during his Husker career. What was among the deepest positions on the team at the beginning of the season is now thin.

"Obviously, we're nicked up there up-front," coach **BO PELINI** said.



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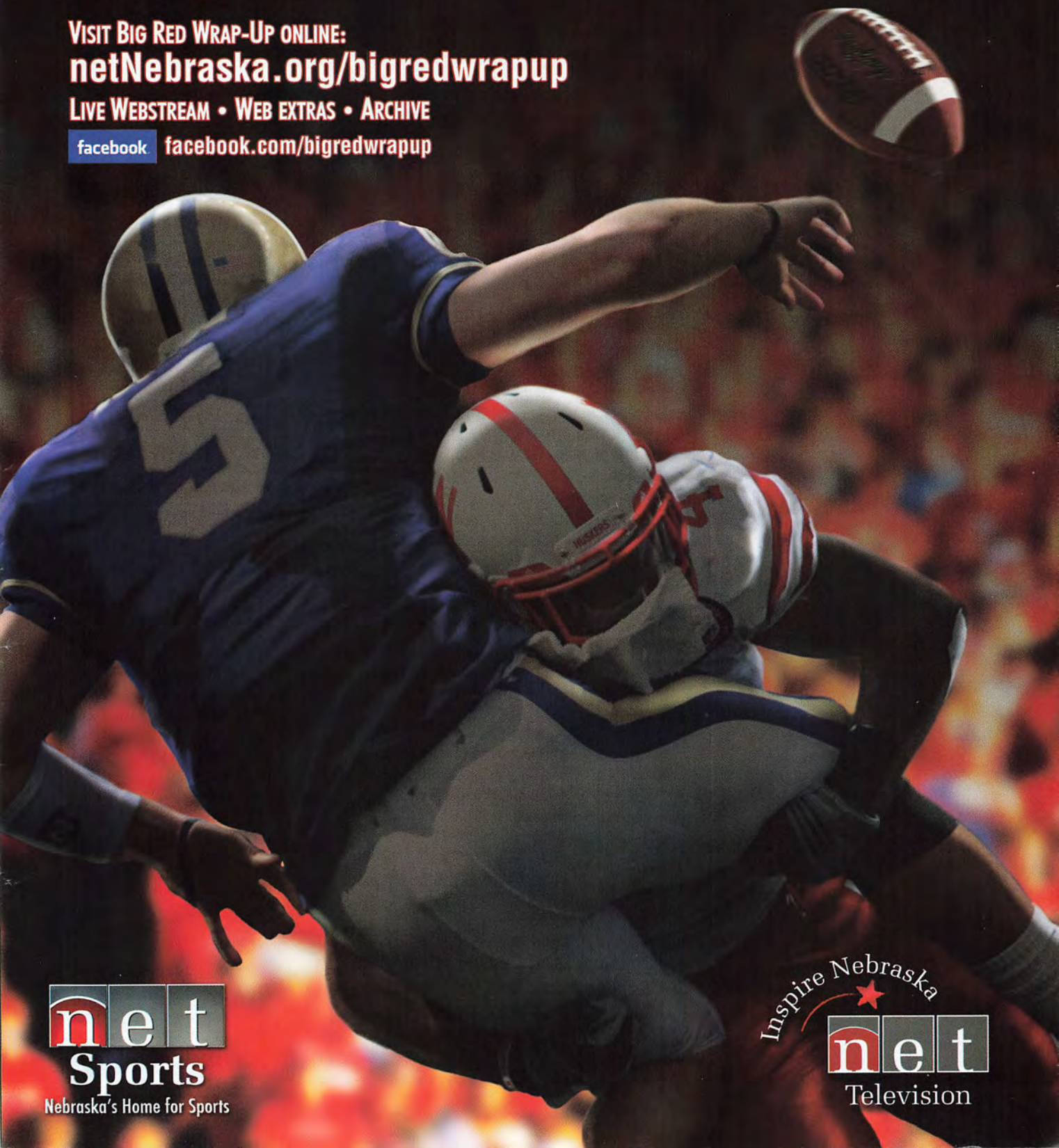
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Something Catchy

Nebraska's Blackshirt tradition evolved from a modest beginning, the desire to have a contrast color for pullover practice vests in 1964, when NCAA rules were changed to allow for two-platoon play.

Offensive tackle **MARCEL JONES** appreciates the significance of the tradition. In fact, if he had his way, the offensive line would have its own Blackshirt-type designation.

"Ever since I got here, I wished we had something like a 'Goldshirt,' like if we made up a name for the offense," said the senior from Phoenix, Ariz. "I've been trying to think of

them (nicknames) for the longest, but every one I think of doesn't sound as cool as 'Blackshirt,' you know?

"We thought about 'Will Breakers' or 'Game Changers.' But it never stuck. I always wanted something like that. I wanted to throw up my own signal after I made a good block."

Offensive linemen don't get much attention. "The only thing we get looked at for is the negative, which kind of sucks," Jones said. "But it is what it is."

HAIRY MATTER

By now, you've probably noticed **CAMERON**

MEREDITH'S long hair. That might surprise his high school classmates because he always wore his hair short there.

He wore it short because he had to. "I went to a Catholic high school," he said.

The high school was Mater Dei in Santa Ana, Calif.

Last spring, he decided on a new look. Over the summer, "I just let it grow," the junior defensive end said at the start of fall camp. "It was (at) a really awkward stage at one point.

"But I was like, 'Once it gets past here, it's going to be awesome.' Now it's awesome."

CORNHUBRIS

BLEEDING
BY TIM SIEDELL **RED**

I knew something was wrong when Mannheim Steamroller showed up on one fall afternoon and started singing a newly written alma mater anthem.

It just felt wrong.

Like many of us, my Husker football psyche was forged by close calls, painful losses, and “what could have beens.” I cut my teeth on pain. Oklahoma alternated between punching me in the mouth and kicking me in a backside area that I will simply refer to here

as my Ames, Iowa region. There was the Great Injustice in Nittany Valley in 1982. The missed two-point conversion after the 1983 season. And far too many bowl game performances souring the start of another new year.

My heart had been kicked around and stomped upon so many times, it was practically worthless by the time I entered the University of Nebraska as an undeclared freshman. So I gravitated towards advertising. Turns out the lack of a working heart is a competitive advantage in advertising.

But the ‘90s brought a welcome wind of change. Nirvana and their flannel-clad fans busted into the mainstream and fundamentally changed the landscape of music. And Nebraska and its flannel-clad fans busted out and brought something new and unexpected to the Heartland.

Hubris. Sweet, delicious, well-earned hubris.

Upon graduation from UNL in 1991, I was lucky enough to find a job that kept me in town. I started making enough money to buy season tickets for basketball games. And a few years later, my very own season ticket for football. With enough money left over for one of those razzle-dazzle Starter jackets, no less.

It was a magical time. Before my wife and I had kids and our

Saturdays devolved into shuttling kids to and from soccer games and sitting at all-day gymnastics meets. And, as it turns out, before the head-scratching days of an Athletic Director Who Shall Not Be Named.

(A funny side story. I met Athletic Director Who Shall Not Be Named at a university function a couple of weeks after he started on the job. I shook his hand and told him I thought he was

“doing and saying everything right.” My bad.)

The first year I had season football tickets? 1994. The last? 2001. During that stretch, the Huskers went 51-1 at home. Won three national championships. Played for two more. My brother and I went to every home game. And I was even able to miss two of my brother-in-law’s weddings as a result. A magical time, indeed.

Suddenly, there was a new Tunnel Walk tradition. Flashy

videos with crystal-adorned national championship trophies smashing opposing team helmets to thunderous cheers. Celebrities showing up in newly installed luxury boxes. Rappers wearing Tommie Frazier jerseys on MTV.

This lifelong Nebraska fan, and many others like me, drank up each refreshing drop. Soon, it wasn’t just about winning anymore. That was practically assumed from week to week. Suddenly, it was about margin of victory. Style points. Heisman Trophy races. And rooting for each team on our schedule so that we could beat as many highly ranked teams as possible. Dare I say, we must have been intolerable.

So when Mannheim Steamroller introduced

Memorial Stadium to the newest game day tradition in 1996, complete with corny lyrics posted on the video screens for all to sing, there was a nagging sense that perhaps we’d gone a bit too far. Apparently I wasn’t the only one. The song, which was unveiled with such high-spirited ceremony, was unceremoniously dumped a few years later. Good riddance.

Today’s young Husker fans don’t remember winning three national titles in

four years. They grew up with their own version of Husker pain. Coaching changes. Some awful blowout losses. Even what was once considered practically unthinkable: a losing season. Those years were enough to knock the hubris out of us older fans, as well.

Well, almost. For good or for bad, it still pops up every once in a while. And there’s still a nagging belief that next time, we’ll make it four titles in four years. Deep down inside, we know it’s possible.

“Tim Siedell is a writer and humorist whose first book, “Marching Bands Are Just Homeless Orchestras” is available now through Amazon.

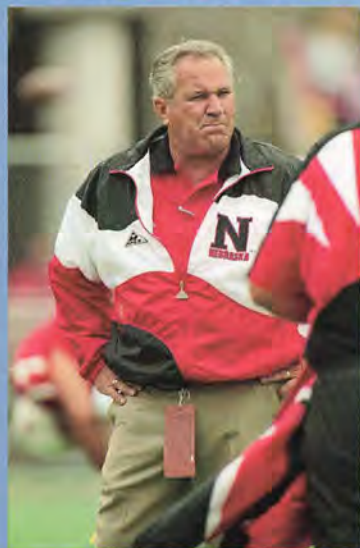
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Freshman leaves "family" behind; brings championship tradition



**EMILY CADY WAS
IN HIGH SCHOOL,
DRIVING THROUGH**

Seward when her tire went flat. Mom and Dad weren't home -- or in town, for that matter.

"I had to call my best friend's mom, who used to own a coffee shop in town," the Husker women's basketball freshman said. "I called her and she was right there. I don't know how to change a tire. That's just how it is in Seward. It's like a family.

"If I ever had a problem, there would always be someone there to help me," Cady said.

Just like there was always someone there to help, there was also always someone at the Walmart in town, too. That was Cady's favorite hangout in high school.

"We always went to Walmart. Like, this sounds weird, but that's where we went. At night, you would see all these Seward kids at Walmart because there was nothing else to do in the town, except for go to Walmart and mess around with the toys and stuff."

Walmart isn't where she would take her friends if she were to take them to Seward, though. She would take them to Café on the Square, a local restaurant that serves "good, homemade, café food," she said.

In high school, when Cady wasn't playing with the toys at Walmart, she was playing with a basketball. She led Seward High School to three consecutive Class B state titles, winning 75 straight games. In her senior season, Cady averaged 13 points per

game and seven rebounds, earning Super-State honors for the second straight season.

"It was exciting," Cady said. "I hope the tradition keeps going this year here at Nebraska. My senior-year state title was the most special of the three. It was the last one."

Cady has been playing basketball since she was in second grade. She's been towering over teachers since kindergarten.

"I always towered over teachers," the 6-foot-2 forward said. "My kindergarten teacher was like five-foot nothing. And so I was already taller than her.

"My parents always had me playing with basketballs. My dad really wanted me to play, so he helped me with the love of the game, and he loves watching me play," she said.

Coming out of high school, Cady turned down scholarship offers from Iowa State and Kansas State. She wanted to be close to home. She wanted a place that felt right. She found it.

"It felt right here," Cady said. "I went to all the other places and they were nice, but it just felt like home here. I can't explain the feeling. It just felt like I belonged here."

"I got the opportunity to do it, so now I have to make the best of it. Next year I'm going to hopefully get some playing time. It all depends on how much hard work I want to do."

If Nickens does reach the field next fall, his family will gather in the shop to watch their hometown big man on the big screen in his grandpa's shop.

by Ryne Stefankiewicz



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Michigan Wolverines

Nebraska-MU match-up features two of college football's winningest programs | TERRY DOUGLASS

While neither team has won a national championship since sharing the title in 1997, from a historical perspective, Michigan and Nebraska still rank among the elite programs in college football history.

The Wolverines are the sport's all-time leader in victories with 891 heading into their game at Illinois. As of

Nov. 12, the nation's all-time NCAA Division I victories list had Texas second (856), Notre Dame third (851) and Nebraska fourth (844). Notre Dame (736 wins), Alabama (728), Michigan (705) and Nebraska (702) were the only four schools to have recorded 700 or more victories in the 1900s.

Despite being two of the nation's top programs, Michigan and Nebraska have played infrequently. The Wolverines lead the all-time series 3-2-1 with the Cornhuskers winning the previous meeting 32-28 in the 2005 Alamo Bowl in San Antonio.



Through his first five conference games, Denard Robinson threw for 993 yards and rushed for 328 yards. He also threw 6 interceptions, compared to 7 touchdowns.



Brady Hoke

Resume: Brady Hoke is in his first season as Michigan's head coach and coached

the Wolverines to wins in seven of their first nine games. The Ohio native and former Ball State linebacker (1977-80) was previously a head coach at Ball State (2003-08) and San Diego State (2009-10).

KNOW YOUR FOE

Denard Robinson, QB, 6-1, 195, Jr.



In his first nine games of the 2011 season, Robinson completed 52 percent of his pass attempts for 1,519 yards and 13 touchdowns, but was intercepted 12 times. He has rushed for 834 yards and 10 TDs.

Junior Hemingway, WR, 6-1, 225, Sr.



Hemingway ranked as Michigan's top receiver heading into the Illinois game with 24 receptions for 477 yards and a TD, averaging 19.9 yards per catch. The senior has more than 1,400 career receiving yards.

Kenny Demens, LB, 6-1, 250, Jr.



Demens led the Wolverines in tackles through their first nine contests with 66 total stops, including 36 solos. He also has three tackles for loss and one sack, which ranked well behind Craig Roh's team-leading four sacks.

2011 SCHEDULE

9/3 Western Michigan W, 34-10
9/10 Notre Dame W, 35-31
9/17 Eastern Michigan W, 31-3
9/24 San Diego St. W, 28-7
10/1 Minnesota W, 58-0
10/8 at Northwestern W, 42-24
10/15 at Michigan St. L, 28-14
10/29 Purdue W, 36-14
11/5 at Iowa L, 24-16
11/12 at Illinois
11/19 Nebraska
11/26 Ohio St.

PHOTO COURTESY MICHIGAN MEDIA RELATIONS

THEBIGTENBEAT

Penn State fires Paterno

Winningest coach in major-college football history dismissed amid sex-abuse scandal | TERRY DOUGLASS



Not even the most prominent figure in the history of Penn State was able to survive the firestorm created by the university's sex-abuse scandal.

Joe Paterno, who had served as head coach of the Nittany Lions for 46 seasons and became the winningest coach in major-college football history with 409 career victories, was informed last Wednesday night that he had been relieved of his coaching duties by Penn State's board of trustees via telephone.

"Right now, I'm not the football coach, and I've got to get used to that," Paterno said, speaking to reporters just outside the front door of his home late Wednesday night.

The 84-year-old Paterno, who had previously said he would resign at the end of the season, had faced criticism for not doing more to stop the alleged abuse by former defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky. Sandusky has been charged with molesting eight boys

during a 15-year span with some of the assaults allegedly taking place at the Penn State football complex.

The announcement of Paterno's firing prompted thousands of students to gather at an administration building, chanting "One more game!" and "We want Joe Back." Angry students threw rocks and bottles and tipped a TV station's van on its side and kicked out the windows.

Paterno, who won two national titles and coached five undefeated teams at Penn State, had said in a statement released earlier Wednesday that he was "absolutely devastated" by the abuse case. "This is a tragedy," Paterno's statement said. "It is one of the great sorrows of my life. With the benefit of hindsight, I wish I had done more."

Defensive coordinator Tom Bradley served as Penn State's interim coach for its game against Nebraska.

BORN TO RUN

Ohio State has found success with an extreme version of the ground-and-pound offensive approach.

After starting 0-2 in Big Ten Conference play, the Buckeyes ran the ball 155 times for 825 yards — an average of 275 yards a game — while posting victories over then-No. 16 Illinois (17-7), then-No. 15 Wisconsin (33-29) and Indiana (34-20). Ohio State was looking to make it four straight wins Saturday at Purdue.

During its wins over Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana, the Buckeyes had only 27 pass attempts, completing 13 for 161 yards.

People know we're going to run and we're going to continue to do it anyway," Ohio State center Mike Brewster told the Associated Press.

EXTENDING PLAYS

While Wisconsin's back-to-back losses to Michigan State and Ohio State may have diminished Heisman Trophy talk surrounding Russell Wilson, the Badgers' senior quarterback is still impressing opponents.

"He's right up there with (Michigan's) Denard Robinson as far as his ability to extend plays," Purdue linebacker Joe Holland told the AP. "He's a really, really good decision-maker and he's not going to throw too many stupid passes. If he doesn't see anything, he's going to make something happen with his legs."

BIG TEN ROUNDUP

► Like many former members of Penn State's football program, LaVar Arrington said he was shocked to learn of the alleged sex abuse scandal surrounding former Nittany Lions' defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky, who was charged with 40 counts of sex crimes involving minors. "I'm perplexed as to how someone who did so much good could end up being accused of something so bad," Arrington wrote in a blog for the Washington Post.

► After consecutive losses to Michigan State and Ohio State, Wisconsin guard Kevin Zeitler told the AP that he and his fellow linemen were determined to turn things around. "We did not want this trend to continue," Zeitler said. "Yes, we were angry. It was rough. It was time to get it going and get things back on track."

► Michigan State head coach Mark Dantonio made his players unavailable for media interviews in the week prior to last Saturday's game against Iowa. Dantonio employed a similar tactic in the week leading up to the Spartans' 10-7 win at Ohio State on Oct. 1.

Huskers admit to losing focus against Northwestern

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

Nebraska learned a harsh lesson about football and the Big Ten in general with its 28-25 loss to Northwestern.

In the days following the upset loss, numerous players and coaches talked about not being prepared or looking ahead to road games at Penn State and Michigan before taking care of business against Northwestern.

They're right. Nebraska relaxed and got hit in the mouth by an opponent that was anything but a gimmie.

"I don't think we put the time in," senior offensive tackle Yoshi Hardrick said. "We thought we would go through the motions, we'd go out and get the win. I still feel guilty and couldn't sleep after the game. Everybody took their part in the game."

In Bo Pelini parlance, there was plenty of thumb-pointing to go around following the ugly result against Northwestern. The offensive line didn't look crisp against a defensive front that was hardly stout like Ohio State or Michigan State's. The secondary made technique and execution mistakes that led to big pass plays.

Those are the kinds of mistakes that can befall a young football team, particularly against a team that doesn't have its full attention. Keep in mind, Nebraska is still a young football team. Just nine of Nebraska's starters against the Wildcats were seniors, and the team was coming off its most important and dominant win of the season over Michigan State.

The loss also highlights an important facet of life in the Big Ten. There are few easy wins in the conference. A hapless Minnesota team beat Iowa at home and gave Michigan State all it could handle the following week in East Lansing. Even Wisconsin, which looked unbeatable at times, lost back-to-back games against Michigan State and Ohio State. The top of the divisional standings in the Big Ten this season is a muddled mess of teams with multiple losses crawling to the finish line with the winners getting a date in Indianapolis.

Avoiding those kinds of letdowns rests on a coaching staff to communicate the challenges each week and a group of players that keeps focusing on getting better each day.

"You hope that the players listen to you and take it to heart or believe the hype,"



By the time practice ended, Hardrick said the fight count had reached double digits.

Pelini said. "I don't ride the roller coaster. You are challenged as a player every week and you can't buy into the hype or what you are favored by or anything else. You have to be ready to play your best football and find a way to come out each and every week with the type of fire that makes you special. You need the focus that allows you to execute at a high level."

If there were any lessons to be learned in the Northwestern game for a young team, it's the focus necessary to grind through a full season. That lesson was hard for some to take. Hardrick said he nearly cried when Northwestern ran in its final touchdown in the fourth quarter.

"It's my final year, and I want to do better," he said.

Nebraska's players took that lesson to heart in the week of practice following the Northwestern loss. Running back Rex Burkhead called the Monday practice following the loss one of the Huskers' best of the season.

As for the intensity? Hardrick said a scout team player punched an offensive lineman during one of the first few plays of practice. By the time the practice ended, Hardrick said the fight count had reached double digits.

"I felt like we needed that practice," Hardrick said. "If we played like that, we would beat anybody. It took us back to what we were fighting for and put a chip on our shoulder. I think we all overlooked Northwestern and I think everybody is hungry and looking to get better."

"We haven't had fights at practice the whole season, and we probably had 10 yesterday. There's a hunger and a passion and intensity. You can't just go through the motions." **N**

*Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com
Follow him on Twitter @michaelbruntz*



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FIVE QUESTIONS

Mauro Bondi

Bondi now a KC Royals fan thanks to former roomie

Mauro Bondi showed up to Memorial Stadium for a weekly Monday news conference wearing a blue, long-sleeved Kansas City Royals T-shirt.

An interesting choice, considering Bondi, a freshman kicker, was born in New Orleans and grew up in Florida.

But there's a reason for the Royals gear. Bondi's former roommate in Lincoln had a good connection to the professional baseball club.

His name was Bubba Starling.

"He just gave me a bunch of shirts, and always talked about the Royals," Bondi

said, noting that he "really likes baseball" now that he knows Starling, the Nebraska quarterback recruit who signed a multi-million dollar contract



with the Royals.

"From what I knew, he was kind of 50-50 on the whole deal. But money's money," Bondi said.

Bondi and Starling stay in touch. In fact, Starling has returned to Lincoln

a couple of times this fall – although not for football games – and said he'll continue to do so.

"He's a good guy. Funny," Bondi said. "Just an all-around good guy."

Now that Starling has moved on, Bondi rooms with Lincoln, Neb., native Will Sailors. He's also become friends with fellow kicker Brett Maher and has made a visit to Maher's hometown of Kearney.

"I've learned a lot from Brett," Bondi said. "He's actually been a great help, just teaching you the little tiny things that will help you out. He's been a big help."

1

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED: How did you end up at Nebraska?

BONDI: It started when I went to camp in Florida and one of the kicking guys who ran the whole thing actually knew (John Papuchis). I performed really well, called him and he came down and just watched me kick and stuff. He was impressed and he invited me up on an official visit.

2

HI: Over-under, 20: The number of times you've been asked about Alex Henery?

BONDI: Yeah, over. It's ridiculous. But he's such a good kicker and you kind of want to follow that tradition. That's why you come here because there's somewhat of an expectation.

3

HI: What do you want to do after football?

BONDI: I'm into criminal justice right now, or business. I'm interested in the FBI, something like that, or if not, maybe own a business, something related to sports.

4

HI: What's your longest field goal?

BONDI: In practice, I've gone back to 65, 70. In a game, 51 yards.

5

HI: Any story behind your first name?

BONDI: It's Italian. My dad's full-blood Italian, born in Italy. My grandfather, my dad's dad, had the same first name. (Bo) Pelini might have to come down to my house and eat some Italian food. My dad's the chef.





by Terry Douglass

TURNING POINT



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

COUNTER-PUNCH

ONE WEEK AFTER FAILING to get off the field in a disappointing home loss to Northwestern, Nebraska's defense made amends at Penn State.

With momentum shifting and Cornhuskers clinging to a three-point lead, the Blackshirts made not one, but two key defensive stops late in the fourth quarter to secure a 17-14 victory before a crowd of 107,903 at an emotionally charged Beaver Stadium.

"Those were huge," Nebraska defensive end Cameron Meredith said of Nebraska's last two defensive stands. "Momentum was changing toward the end of the game for Penn State and it was huge to get a stop like that. I thought we came out there with some intensity and we just knew what we had to do."

Nebraska's first big stop came with 1:49 to play when Penn State tried to convert a fourth-and-1 opportunity from its own 37-yard line. Nittany Lions' running back Silas Redd initially looked as if he would pick up the first down, but Cornhuskers' linebacker Lavonte David shed a PSU blocker and stopped Redd cold — just inches short of a first down.

"Big-time players make big-time plays in big-

time games and that's what he did," Nebraska senior safety Austin Cassidy said of David. "He stepped up."

It was one of nine tackles on the day for David, but none was more important.

"For anybody who wants to talk about his size, he's the best tackler I've ever worked with," Nebraska defensive coordinator Carl Pelini said. "That was a downhill run and he stopped that kid dead in his tracks."

After Nebraska's offense turned the ball over on downs, the Blackshirts were called upon once more. Taking over with 49 seconds to play, Penn State was able to drive from its own 28 to its 46, but quarterback Matt McGloin's desperation pass attempt fell incomplete as time expired.

The defense's performance was a complete turnaround from the previous game against Northwestern when the Wildcats scored a pair of fourth-quarter TDs in a 28-25 upset win.

"We took a punch and we came back and counter-punched and had a couple of big stops there at the end," Pelini said. "That's the maturation of a group of young men and I'm proud of how they responded." **N**

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

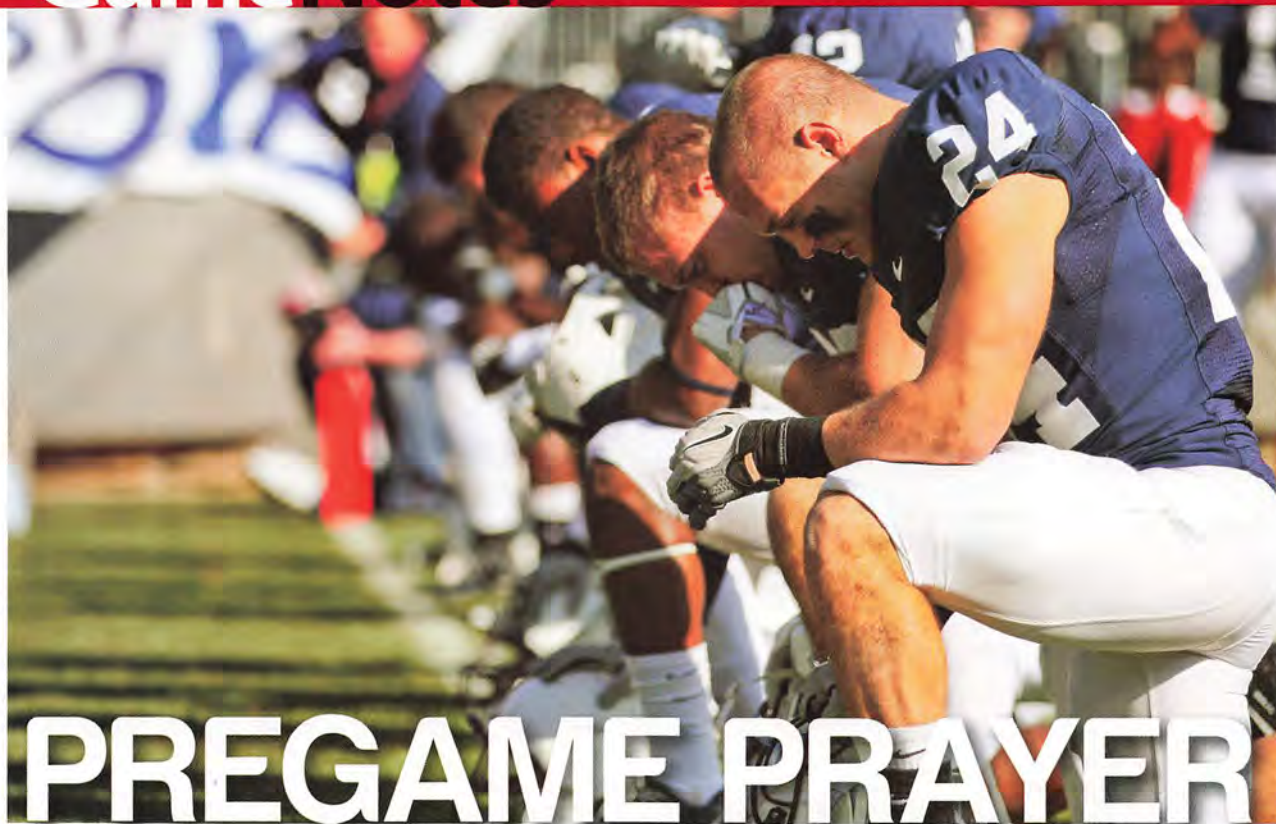


PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

PREGAME PRAYER

In the wake of the sex-abuse scandal that rocked Penn State and resulted in the firing of longtime coach Joe Paterno, Nittany Lions players and coaches met with their Nebraska counterparts at midfield for a pregame prayer in remembrance of the alleged victims.

Leading the prayer was Cornhuskers' running backs coach **RON BROWN**, who Nebraska head coach **BO PELINI** called "a pretty obvious choice" to take on that role. NU I-back **REX BURKHEAD** said it was a very special moment and unlike anything he'd ever experience before.

"Especially when you're going into a game, there's all the tension between the two teams, usually, so when you get there and you say a prayer with the other team, just knowing that there's more to the game than just football," Burkhead said. "There's a life that as football players we often get caught in, (saying) football

is our life, but there really is a broader perspective out there that was seen by getting together."

Brown said he didn't deliver a message per se, but instead offered more of a prayer.

"It was just a reminder that God chose this time and it was beyond anyone else's control," Brown said. "But that what we could control was our attitude and our spirit."

FOOTBALL FOCUS

Considering everything that went on in Happy Valley in the days leading up to the Nebraska-Penn State game, Huskers' coach **BO PELINI** admitted that maintaining total focus on just football was difficult for everyone.

"I've got to be honest with you — there were times it was hard as a coach," Pelini said. "There were a lot of things going on. Obviously, the coverage — it was all over the place. No matter where you turned,

that's where the focus was and it hurts."

Nebraska guard **SPENCER LONG** said he didn't know what to expect, but thought it ended up being a great atmosphere, playing from 107,000-plus fans at Beaver Stadium.

"You could feel it walking in here," Long said. "You have to give a lot of credit to the Penn State fans. They showed a lot of sportsmanship, along with the team."

BURKHEAD REBOUNDS

While it has been a memorable season for Nebraska **REX BURKHEAD**, Huskers' offensive coordinator **TIM BECK** said the junior I-back was stung by his key red-zone fumble in the previous week's 28-25 home loss to Northwestern.

"He took it personal," Beck said. "He was very upset at himself after last week's game and he really played well. I'm proud of him."

Burkhead responded by rushing 25

GameNotes



CASHING IN

Nebraska's defense had just one takeaway against Penn State, but made it count as the Huskers converted a lost fumble by Nittany Lions quarterback **MATT MCGLOIN** into an eight-play, 52-yard TD drive capped by **REX BURKHEAD'S** 14-yard run to put NU ahead 17-0 with 8:51 to play in the third quarter.

McGloin fumbled after being hit and sacked by Nebraska defensive end **CAMERON MEREDITH** for a 7-yard loss. Fellow defensive end **ERIC MARTIN** recovered the loose football for the Huskers. "Basically, it was a pretty simple pass play and the tackle over-kicked a little bit and I went

inside and (the quarterback) was right there, so I tackled him," Meredith said. "The fumble ended up being a huge play in the game." Nebraska's lone turnover of the game was also converted into a TD by the Nittany Lions, cutting the Huskers' lead to 17-14 with 5:42 to play.

times for 121 yards, including a 14-yard touchdown run. It was Burkhead's sixth 100-yard rushing game of the season and the 10th of his career and increased his streak of games with a rushing score to 10.

DIFFERENT LOOK

Nebraska gave future opponents yet another look to prepare for against Penn State, shifting quarterback **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** out from underneath the center and bringing I-back **REX BURKHEAD** up to take the snap.

The gimmick yielded both positive and negative results. The positive was scoring on a 2-yard run by I-back **AMEER ABDULLAH**

after taking a handoff from Burkhead with 44 seconds left in the first half and the bad was a lost fumble on an fourth-quarter handoff between Burkhead and fullback **TYLER LEGATE**.

"We have been working on it a little bit before, but those few plays that we ran were brought in this week," said Burkhead, who noted that he played quarterback for half of a season during his sophomore year of high school. "It was neat to get in there. It's a different position and I had the lead block on the (play) that Ameer scored, so that was a little different. It kind of takes me back to high school games where the quarterback is blocking, so that was a fun game."

FIELD-FLIPPING

Perhaps lost in the shuffle of Nebraska's victory was yet another solid outing by place-kicker and punter Brett Maher.

Not only did Maher average 45 yards on eight punts and pin Penn State inside its own 20-yard line five times, but his final punt with four minutes remaining played a big part in Nebraska's win. Leading by just three points and punting from the Huskers' 28, Maher tied his career long with a 61-yarder that rolled dead at the Nittany Lions' 11.

"That was really big," Nebraska special teams/defensive line coach John Papuchis said. "It caused them to have an (89-)yard drive. I mean, he really flipped the field over on them."

Maher also hit a 41-yard field goal in the second quarter, improving him to 16-of-19 on field-goal attempts this season. Maher's three misses have all come from 50 yards or longer.

WORTH NOTING

- No. 12 Penn State was the highest-ranked team Nebraska has defeated in a true road game since knocking off then-No. 2 Washington 27-14 at Seattle in 1997.
- The Huskers are now 13-5 in road games under head coach Bo Pelini, including a 3-4 mark in road games against ranked teams.
- Nebraska's captains for the Penn State game were junior receiver Tim Marlowe, sophomore defensive end Jason Ankrah, junior defensive back Justin Blatchford and senior cornerback Alfonzo Dennard.



AFTER A WEEK OF TURMOIL FOR PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, NEBRASKA RUNNING BACKS COACH RON BROWN LEAD BOTH TEAMS IN A PRAYER PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME.
PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



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ICE



NEBRASKA



PENN STATE



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1) Rex Burkhead (22) rushed for 121 yards on 25 carries against Penn State 2) Taylor Martinez scrambles past the Penn State defense, finishing with 56 yards rushing on 19 carries. 3) Seung Hoon Choi (77) hoists Rex Burkhead in the air after Burkhead's 3rd quarter touchdown. 4) Derek Moyer jumps over the top of Nebraska defenders Andrew Green and Daimion Stafford for a reception. 5) Rex Burkhead throws an incomplete pass from the Wildcat formation.

Photos by Aaron Babcock





RUSHING OFFENSE: Running the ball between the tackles wasn't going to be easy against Penn State's stout defense, but the Huskers utilized a wrinkle that helped accomplish their goals. With running back Rex Burkhead lined up under center, Nebraska ran the option with Burkhead and found yardage between the tackles. The wrinkle was also used on Nebraska's touchdown in the second quarter, with Burkhead pitching to freshman running back Ameer Abdullah and then blocking to allow Abdullah into the end zone to put Nebraska ahead 10-0 before halftime. Maybe the biggest strategic decision of the game was giving Burkhead just eight carries in the first half, which kept him fresh for the second half when yards were easier to come by, though Tim Beck got cute in the second half with Burkhead as quarterback leading to a momentum-changing fumble.

A-

PASSING OFFENSE: Though his numbers didn't reflect it, Martinez had a servicable day in the pocket. He finished the first half 9 for 17 for 101 yards, but didn't get much help from Kenny Bell and Brandon Kinnie, who both dropped passes in the first half. Initially it looked like Nebraska was using its gameplan from Wisconsin in this game, but offensive coordinator Tim Beck put together solid play calls in the second quarter, helping Nebraska take a 10-0 lead into halftime. We liked the mix of plays involved in the passing game. Khiry Cooper had a big catch in the first half, and Beck seemed to make a more concerted effort to get tight end Kyler Reed involved in the game. It wasn't pretty, but Nebraska moved the ball through the air when it needed to. This grade could have been higher if not for a handful of drops by the receivers.

B

RUSHING DEFENSE: Except for a third-quarter blip, after the Huskers had taken a 17-0 lead, Nebraska's defense was solid on both sides of the ball. Penn State had to convert on only one third down during its nine-play, 82-yard third-quarter touchdown drive, and that was accomplished with a Husker penalty. Backup defensive tackle Thad Randle didn't make the trip, and the Huskers rotated only three tackles: Baker Steinkuhler, Terrence Moore and Chase Rome. Nevertheless, Penn State wasn't able to run the ball consistently and NU came up with some big stops late in the game.

A-

PASSING DEFENSE: Penn State went into the game ranked eighth in the Big Ten in passing offense, and the Nittany Lions had little consistent success through the air. Matt McGloin did complete four of five passes for 64 yards on Penn State's third-quarter touchdown drive. But as was the case with the Nittany Lions' rushing offense, their passing game wasn't consistently successful. In addition, Nebraska's offense did enough to keep its defense from being on the field an inordinate amount of time.

B+

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: Brett Maher got the Huskers on the board early in the second quarter with a 41-yard field goal. While the distance might not have been eye-popping, he made the kick facing right into the Penn State student section. Maher was huge in the first quarter when the teams were locked in a defensive field position battle. Nebraska used Maher's directional kicking to keep the Nittany Lions pinned in their own end. The Huskers never had a huge return from Ameer Abdullah or any of its other returners, but sometimes on the road, playing steady, mistake-free special teams can be just as important as hitting a big play.

A-



PHOTOS BY AARON BABCOCK

QUICK PICKS



Aaron Babcock



Mike Babcock



Michael Bruntz



Terry Douglass



Kevin Kugler



Matt Davison

Last Week, Season

(7-1, 63-15)

(5-3, 60-18)

(6-2, 58-20)

(7-1, 61-17)

(6-2, 59-19)

(6-2, 60-18)

Nebraska at Michigan	NU 28-24	NU 28-20	UM 30-27	UM 31-28	NU 28-21	NU 35-34
USC at Oregon	OU 45-17	OU 35-24	OU 42-21	OU 45-35	OU 42-17	OU 45-31
Wisconsin at Illinois	UW 35-21	UW 49-17	UW 41-20	UW 37-20	UW 24-20	UW 34-21
Iowa at Purdue	PU 21-14	PU 21-17	PU 24-17	IOWA 20-14	PU 17-7	PU 27-24
Penn State at Ohio State	OSU 21-10	OSU 24-13	OSU 30-17	OSU 17-13	OSU 21-7	OSU 21-17
Texas Tech at Missouri	MU 42-21	MU 42-28	MU 35-33	MU 45-33	MU 48-18	MU 34-21
Oklahoma at Baylor	OU 55-24	OU 45-35	OU 49-42	OU 63-30	OU 55-21	OU 47-40
Kansas State at Texas	KSU 35-31	UT 35-31	KSU 31-28	UT 33-30	UT 24-21	UT 34-24

SUMMARY

SCORING

November 12, 2011
Beaver Stadium, University Park, Pa.
Attendance: 107,903

	1	2	3	4	F
NEBRASKA	0	10	7	0	17
PENN STATE	0	0	7	7	14

Q2 10:55 NEB - Maher, Brett 41 yd field goal, 9-50 3:53

00:44 NEB - Abdullah, Ameer 2 yd run (Maher, Brett kick), 12-80 2:49

Q3 08:51 NEB - Burkhead, Rex 14 yd run (Maher, Brett kick), 8-52 2:54

05:07 PSU - Green, Stephfon 5 yd run (Fera, Anthony kick), 9-82 3:36

Q4 05:42 PSU - Green, Stephfon 6 yd run (Fera, Anthony kick), 9-51 3:53

NEB	PSU
3	0
10	0
17	0
17	7
17	14

TEAM STATS

	NEB	PSU
FIRST DOWNS	21	21
Rushing	10	10
Passing	10	9
Penalty	1	2
NET YARDS RUSHING	188	166
Rushing Attempts	48	43
Average Per Rush	3.9	3.9
Rushing Touchdowns	2	2
Yards Gained Rushing	200	174
Yards Lost Rushing	12	8
NET YARDS PASSING	143	209
Comp-Att-Int	13-27-0	17-35-0
Average Per Attempt	5.3	6.0
Average Per Completion	11.0	12.3
Passing Touchdowns	0	0
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	331	375
Total offense plays	75	78
Average Gain Per Play	4.4	4.8
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties: Number-Yards	6-45	3-32
PUNTS-YARDS	8-360	7-296
Average Yards Per Punt	45.0	42.3
Net Yards Per Punt	40.4	36.6
Inside 20	5	0
50+ Yards	2	3
Touchbacks	0	2
Fair catch	1	4
KICKOFFS-YARDS	4-276	3-193
Average Yards Per Kickoff	69.0	64.3
Net Yards Per Kickoff	48.8	44.0
Touchbacks	1	0
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	0-0-0	3-37-0
Average Per Return	0.0	12.3
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	3-61-0	3-61-0
Average Per Return	20.3	20.3
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	29:03	30:57
1st Quarter	5:09	9:51
2nd Quarter	9:07	5:53
3rd Quarter	8:28	6:32
4th Quarter	6:19	8:41
Third-Down Conversions	6 of 16	5 of 16
Fourth-Down Conversions	0 of 1	1 of 3
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	2-2	2-2
Touchdowns	2-2	2-2
Field goals	0-2	0-2
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-7	1-3
PAT Kicks	2-2	2-2
Field Goals	1-1	0-1

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Burkhead, Rex	25	126	5	121	1	14	4.8
Martinez, Taylor	19	63	7	56	0	17	2.9
Reed, Kyler	1	5	0	5	0	5	5.0
Marlowe, Tim	1	4	0	4	0	4	4.0
Abdullah, Ameer	2	2	0	2	1	2	1.0
Totals	48	200	12	188	2	17	3.9

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Martinez, Taylor	13-26-0	143	0	24	1
Burkhead, Rex	0-1-0	0	0	0	0
Totals	13-27-0	143	0	24	1

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Bell, Kenny	4	42	0	24
Reed, Kyler	3	40	0	24
Enunwa, Quincy	2	14	0	8
Cooper, Khiry	1	17	0	17
Marlowe, Tim	1	15	0	15
Cotton, Ben	1	14	0	14
Burkhead, Rex	1	1	0	1
Totals	13	143	0	24

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Maher, Brett	8	360	45.0	61	5	0

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Marlowe, Tim	0	0	0	1	23	23	0	0	0
Abdullah, Ameer	0	0	0	1	15	15	0	0	0
Bell, Kenny	0	0	0	1	23	23	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Maher, Brett	2nd	10:55	41 yards	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
Compton, Will	6	7	13	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green, Andrew	9	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
David, Lavonte	6	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cassidy, Austin	5	4	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moore, Terrence	1	5	6	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stafford, D.	1	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dennard, A.	4	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Meredith, C.	2	2	4	1.0-7	1-7	1	-	-	-	-	-
Martin, Eric	1	3	4	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
Fisher, Sean	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thorell, Lance	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Richards, Wil	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stoddard, G.	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Jean-Baptiste, S.	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carter, Joseph	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mangieri, P.J.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rome, Chase	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Steinkuhler, B.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whaley, Alonzo	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evans, Gante	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Williams, Josh	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

PENN STATE

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Green, Stephfon	17	71	0	71	2	11	4.2
Redd, Silas	15	53	0	53	0	14	3.5
Beachum, B.	7	37	1	36	0	15	5.1
Kersey, Shawney	1	4	0	4	0	4	4.0
Suhey, Joe	1	3	0	3	0	3	3.0
McGloin, Matt	2	6	7	-1	0	6	-0.5
Totals	43	174	8	166	2	15	3.9

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
McGloin, Matt	16-34-0	193	0	40	1
Drake, Curtis	1-1-0	16	0	16	0
Totals	17-35-0	209	0	40	1

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Moye, Derek	4	78	0	40
Brown, Justin	3	30	0	16
Green, Stephfon	3	5	0	3
Smith, Devon	2	19	0	10
Drake, Curtis	1	31	0	31
McGloin, Matt	1	16	0	16
Szczerba, A.	1	14	0	14
Robinson, Allen	1	9	0	9
Haplea, Kevin	1	7	0	7
Totals	17	209	0	40

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Fera, Anthony	7	296	42.3	55	0	2

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Brown, Justin	2	30	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Astorino, Drew	1	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Powell, Chaz	0	0	0	3	61	26	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Fera, Anthony	1st	06:33	47 yards	Missed

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
Stupar, Nate	6	7	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hodges, Gerald	5	4	9	-	1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Astorino, Drew	7	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carson, Glenn	4	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Still, Devon	4	2	6	-	1-3	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lynn, D'Anton	4	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Sukay, Nick	1	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Crawford, Jack	4	1	5	1.0-3	1-3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hill, Jordan	1	4	5	-	-	-	1-0	-	1	-	-
Powell, Chaz	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Latimore, Eric	1	1	2	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yanchik, Mike	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stanley, Sean	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Willis, Malcolm	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morris, Stephon	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green, Stephfon	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Van Fleet, J.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

IN THE Red Zone

Choi learning the ways of football, hardwork and English

Junior Seung Hoon Choi started the Washington and Wyoming games at offensive left guard when sophomore Andrew Rodriguez was injured. Choi is from Seoul, South Korea by way of Lincoln (Neb.) Christian High School and didn't begin playing football until his sophomore year there.

"I couldn't imagine," said offensive tackle Jeremiah Sirles. "I played football since I was 8-years-old and it's just something coming from somewhere, I don't even think football's a pastime over in South Korea, coming over here and 'Hey, that looks like fun,' and playing at the collegiate level."

Choi came to the United States as an exchange student when he was an eighth-grader and began playing football not only because his friends were

but also because putting on a helmet and pads looked "cool." He had played soccer and baseball in South Korea.

"I didn't even know what football was," he said.

Because of his size, his high school coach, Matt Farup, started him out on defense, as a noseguard, telling him simply to "play the gap," hold the ground between center and guard on either side. "I didn't know what

was going on," Choi said. "If I see a guy running with (the) ball, I try (to) tackle, and that's what they told me to do. I'm pretty sure I didn't have much techniques. I just play."

He played well enough that Nebraska showed interest in him as a walk-on, first former Husker defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove and then current offensive line coach Barney Cotton.



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

"I saw just a short, very strong project," said Cotton.

Choi, who's listed at 6-foot-2 and 290 pounds, said his maximum bench press is more than 450 pounds. "I love lifting," he said, adding with a smile he'd rather lift than run.

Choi is "just a guy that keeps plugging away at everything he does," Cotton said. "And eventually, if you have that attitude in everything you do, pretty good

things are going to happen to you."

Because of that persistence, he has called Choi the "turtle."

Language was a problem when Choi first got to the United States, of course, and even when Cotton was encouraging him to walk on there were communication issues. But no longer.

"He's a great joke teller," Cotton said. "He's probably one of the driest, funniest guys you've ever been around. But they're not really

funny stories. It's just how he says 'em that makes 'em funny."

After his first start, Choi's parents called him to ask about the game. "My dad asked me, 'Tell me about the details,'" said Choi. "And I'm like, 'I think I did all right.' "

But, he added: "I'll tell you after watching film."

Obviously, he's picked up some coachspeak.

INTERNATIONAL HUSKERS

The Nebraska football program has drawn players from outside the United States. Perhaps the first was Oliver Mickel, who earned a letter as a fullback on "Bummy" Booth's 1902 team.

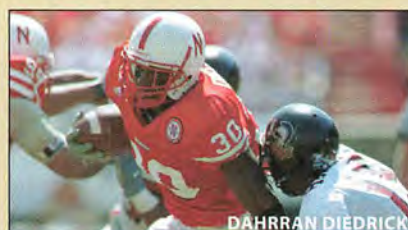
The Huskers were 9-0 and didn't allow a point that season.

Mickel was a graduate of Lincoln High School, where he also played baseball. But he was born in

Chihuahua, Mexico, according to the university's student yearbook, the Sombrero. No further details are given. "He was a strong, hard player, and took part in every game (in 1902)," the yearbook said.

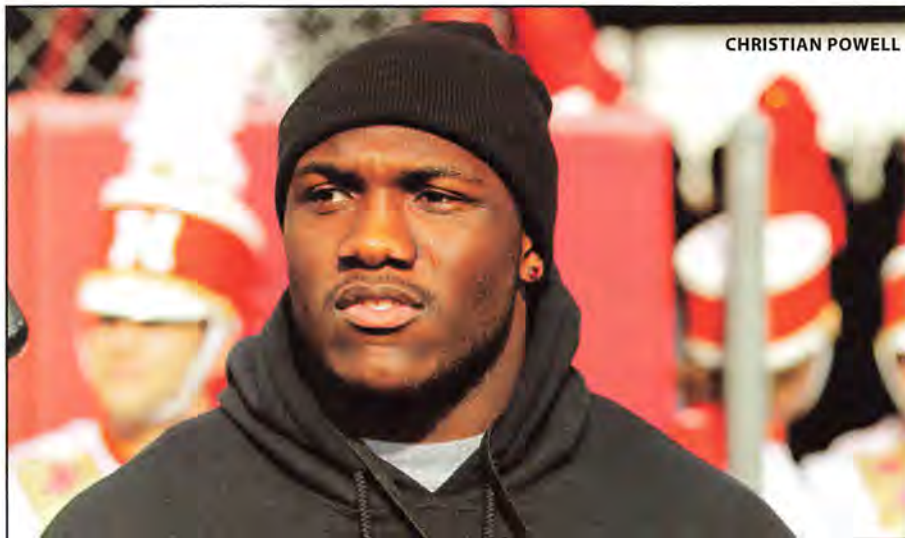
Huskers who have come from or gone to *high school outside the United States (list might not be all-inclusive):

Pete Buchanan, LB (1988)	Canada (Pierre Ponds, Quebec)
Seung Hoon Choi, OL (current)	South Korea (Lincoln, Neb., exchange student)
Terris Chorney, C (1990-91-92)	Canada (Ituna, Saskatchewan)
Sandro DeAngelis, PK (2001-03-04)	Canada (Niagara Falls, Ontario)
Dahrran Diedrick, IB (1999-00-01-02)	Canada (Scarborough, Ontario)
Seppo Evwaraye, DT (2002-04-05)	Finland (Laurel, Neb., exchange student)
Isaiah Fluellen, WR (2003-04-05)	*Germany (Ramstein AFB, high school)
Patrick Kabongo, DT (2000-01-02-03)	Canada (Montreal, Quebec)
Adi Kunalic, PK (2007-08-09-10)	Bosnia (Fort Worth, Texas, high school)
Oliver Mickel, FB (1902)	Chihuahua, Mexico
Brett Popplewell, SE (1992-93)	Australia (Melbourne)
Anthony Steels, WB (1979-80-81)	*Spain (Zaragoza AFB, high school)



Fullback enjoys visit

California fullback targeted by Huskers, impressed with academic support



CHRISTIAN POWELL

FULLBACK ENJOYS VISIT

Upland High fullback **CHRISTIAN POWELL** left Nebraska impressed with the Husker program. He was still raving about it Monday night. The pregame atmosphere left a mark on Powell.

"It was amazing," he said. "When the players ran out it just got louder. I really liked it."

Powell said he couldn't compare his experience of Memorial Stadium to the time he watched USC inside the Coliseum.

"This one was a whole different feel and all that, but I really liked it," he said.

The 6-foot, 253-pound fullback is being sought after for his ability to step into the offense and replace current Husker,

TYLER LEGATE. Powell said the staff talked to him about their schemes and how he could fit in.

Powell said he thinks he could

step in next year if he chooses Nebraska.

"I talked to the coaches and they told me about the offense," he said. "I think it's a good offense."

One distinct advantage Nebraska might have over other programs Powell is considering, is its strong academic support. Powell said he was impressed with the academic set up at the school.

"They told me about the programs they can offer to me and how they can help me out with school," he said.

Nebraska's location will not necessarily harm its chances at landing Powell. The recruit said he his mother already talked about distance not being a huge factor.

"She thinks what ever is best for me, will be good enough for us to go to," he said.

Washington continues to be a strong pull for Powell.

The Huskies recently received a commitment from Powell's teammate Joe Mathis. The fullback plans to take a visit to the school as soon as possible.

The Huskers and Huskies were the front runners for Powell's services, but a new offer arrived late last week, as Texas A&M entered the mix.

Powell said now that he's received an offer from the Aggies and would like to check out College Station as well.

NEBRASKA HOSTS DEFENSIVE END

TAIWAN JOHNSON called his visit to Nebraska great, after stopping in to see the Huskers take on Northwestern on Saturday. The Manvel, Texas, defensive end enjoyed a lot of things on his official, but nothing impressed him quite as much as a conversation he had with defensive line coach John Papuchis before leaving Sunday.

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THE ROUGH**
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"He let me know the situation," Johnson said. "They told me it's going to be hard and there will be times where they demand a lot from me. It's up to me whether I decide if I want to do this. That's why they are recruiting me, because they think I can come here and make a difference."

Johnson appreciated the straight talk from Papuchis.

"I appreciate that. I understand it. In the back of the mind as a player, you understand it's not going to be easy," he said. But at the same time you don't want to accept it. Having the coaches let me know, that I'm going to have to work hard, it's good to get that in my head to keep me humble about stuff."

The 6'3, 238-pound lineman was told by the staff they envision him as a defensive end at Nebraska. Johnson said he's fine with either defensive tackle or end. The end thinks he could make a quick impact at the school if he can put it all together.

"I think I can see myself stepping in immediately" he said. "It's going to take a lot of hard work. If I do what I have to do I could step in as a freshman and earn my spot. Make something happen."

He said the visit with the coaches was the best part of the his trip.

"I had a real good personal talk with the coaching staff," he said. "We both have an understanding of what I can do for the team and what they can

do for me, not only as a player but as a person."

Off the field Johnson was impressed by the support system he'd have around him at the school. He took note of the academic success Nebraska has had with its football players.

"I saw some great things and Nebraska has some great things academically," he said. "Graduation rate, that's important."

Despite the 28-25 loss to Northwestern, Johnson said the atmosphere at the stadium lived up to what he envisioned.

"It was everything I thought it would be," he said. "It was sold out. It has a record. Fans were going crazy and they were in full effect giving the full support."

As of right now, Johnson's top teams are Arkansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma State. The defensive end has visited Arkansas and visits OSU next weekend. He said the visit to Nebraska definitely keeps the Huskers in the mix.

"They compare very well," he said. "That's going to make the process harder."

CALIFORNIA LINEBACKER IMPRESSED

Gardena (Calif.) Serra linebacker **THOMAS BROWN** took his first official visit this weekend to Nebraska. The 6-foot-2, 212-pound linebacker had some positive remarks regarding his time in Lincoln.

"It was real fun, it was a great experience," Brown said. "It was cool to see some place outside of California and see what it's like. I met a lot of the coaches and some of the players. I'm really glad I had the chance to experience this."

The atmosphere at Nebraska can be a big impact on a recruit. Did Brown notice the Husker faithful putting in work?

"Oh yeah, they are crazy out there," he said. "I love the atmosphere, it was an awesome experience. The game

itself was interesting, but I like how they use their linebackers. I think I could fit in with that they are doing and have a chance to compete early."

Coach **CARL PELINI** is leading in the recruitment of Brown. The two seemed to have made a solid connection meeting face to face.

"I like coach Pelini, he's a real laid back guy," the three-star said. "He told me I could fit in at any of their linebacker spots and could compete early. I think that is cool that I have the versatility to play any of their linebacker positions."

ANOTHER PLANO STANDOUT

CHRISTIAN MORGAN knows all about Rex Burkhead. The 4-star 2013 tight end product grew up in Plano, Texas – the hometown of Nebraska's all-everything running back. "I go to a private school now (Prestonwood Christian Academy), but I was supposed to go to Plano High where Rex went. Growing up here, he was our hero."

Morgan's been following Burkhead's season.

"Seeing him going up there and succeeding is a pretty cool thing," he said.

At 6-foot-5, 240 pounds, Morgan fills Nebraska's need at tight end. The Prestonwood Christian Academy player started on the offensive line but showed the ability to keep moving outside until he landed at tight end.

Because of Morgan's experience on the line he said blocking is his stronger attribute, but he also thinks he can be quite dangerous as a receiver.

"I feel like I'm a natural tight end," he said. "I always grew up playing basketball. I always grew up with a ball in my hand. They are kind of almost the best athlete on the field."

The 4-star prospect likes the versatility that comes along with playing the position.

"I get to do a lot of different things. I can stick my nose in there and block and I get to catch the ball and all that other fun stuff too."

2012 NEBRASKA COMMITS



★★★★

GREG MCMULLEN

DE, 6-5, 225, Akron, Ohio (Archbishop Hoban)
247Sports Rating: 94



★★★★

MICHAEL ROSE

LB, 6-0, 225, Kansas City Mo. (Rockhurst)
247Sports Rating: 93



★★★★

PAUL THURSTON

OT, 6-5, 275, Arvada, Colo. (Arvada West)
247Sports Rating: 92



★★★★

JORDAN WESTERKAMP

WR, 6-1, 190, Lombard, Ill. (Montini Catholic)
247Sports Rating: 90



★★★

DEION JONES

OLB, 6-2, 200, New Orleans (Jesuit)
247Sports Rating: 88



★★★

TOMMY ARMSTRONG

QB, 6-1, 200, Schertz, Texas (Byron P Steele)
247Sports Rating: 86



★★★

ZAIRE ANDERSON

LB, 6-0, 220, Riverside, Calif. (Riverside CC)
247Sports Rating: 85



★★★

SAM COTTON

TE, 6-4, 235, Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln Southeast)
247Sports Rating: 81

Root steps into starting spot and finds energy

Sidelined Cook gives backup setter a chance to run the show | BOB HAMAR



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

FOR MORE THAN THREE SEASONS, BRIGETTE ROOT SAT AND WATCHED OTHER SETTERS PLAY FOR NEBRASKA.

She was a back-up to All-American Sydney Anderson in 2008, then to Anderson and Jessica Yanz in 2009. Root didn't play a single set last year when the Huskers ran a 6-2 offense with Anderson and Lauren Cook setting.

Root was recruited out of Grand Island, Neb., Senior High as a walk-on back-up setter. She knew her role and was fine with it.

That all changed when Cook was charged with leaving the scene of an accident. All of a sudden, Root was the starting setter for the Huskers when they hosted Michigan and Michigan State on the first weekend of November.

The Huskers won both matches with Root at the helm, and it was a different kind of an experience for her. She said it was much different being on the

court than standing on the sidelines.

"It was a lot more fun than I ever thought it could be," Root said. "Obviously I've been at every home match and I've seen how crazy the crowd gets, but the feeling out there when you make a big point and the crowd goes crazy, it's just incredible.

"Once you get competing, it's surprising how you feel the energy and you feel how it works together. That was really great just to be out there and to be able to compete together."

Nebraska coach John Cook compared Root's situation to when Brooke Delano played outside hitter and in the back row at Kansas State in 2008. Delano was a redshirted freshman with little experience at the time.

Delano came through for the Huskers, and so did Root.

"She's a Husker," Cook said of Root. "That's what they're expected to do. They're expected to perform at a high level whether in practice or if they're starting or whatever it is. She understands that. That's the strength of our program.

Big Ten champs?

The Huskers won the Big 12 championship in 2010 in their final year in that conference. They had put themselves in position in early November to have a shot at a Big Ten title in their first season in their new conference.

"You look at the last three weeks and who has to play who, there are going to be a lot of big matches," John Cook said. "It's no different than football. Who knows what's going to shake out. But we stay with what we do, which is one point at a time, but it will be interesting to see who can play great and find ways to win these big matches

Doing the little things

Hannah Werth has been up and down a bit offensively this season. On the other hand, Cook said her defense has been as good or better than last year when she was named the Big 12's defensive player of the year.

That stems from the mentality that the Husker coaches drive into their players.

"We always talk to those guys about how you're not going to hit great every night, so what else are you going to do to help your team win?" Cook said. "I think Hannah tries to win points when she's in the back row. I think that's her mentality and her mindset. That's what we want from all our players."

Blocks pay off

The Huskers have been working on their blocking all year, and it's paying off.

They have moved up to third in the conference in blocks per set and had 29 blocks in beating Michigan and Michigan State the first weekend of November.

"That's a lot of blocks," Cook said.

2011 Volleyball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/SCORE
AUG. 20	RED/WHITE MATCH	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
<i>MCM ELEGANTE LOBO CLASSIC</i>			
AUG. 26	NEW MEXICO ST.	AT ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.	3-2 (W)
AUG. 27	NEW MEXICO	AT ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.	3-0 (W)
SEPT. 2	COLORADO STATE	AT FORT COLLINS, COLO.	2-3 (L)
SEPT. 3	ALBANY	AT FORT COLLINS, COLO.	3-0 (W)
<i>AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE</i>			
SEPT. 8	CREIGHTON	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
SEPT. 9	ST. MARY'S	NU COLISEUM	3-2 (W)
SEPT. 10	WEBER STATE	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
SEPT. 17	IOWA STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	3-0 (W)
SEPT. 21	PENN STATE*	NU COLISEUM	3-2 (W)
SEPT. 24	OHIO STATE*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
SEPT. 30	MICHIGAN STATE*	AT EAST LANSING, MICH.	3-2 (W)
OCT. 1	MICHIGAN*	AT ANN ARBOR, MICH.	3-0 (W)
OCT. 7	PURDUE*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
OCT. 8	INDIANA*	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
OCT. 14	WISCONSIN*	AT MADISON, WIS.	3-0 (W)
OCT. 15	MINNESOTA*	AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	3-2 (W)
OCT. 19	IOWA*	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
OCT. 22	ILLINOIS*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
OCT. 28	OHIO STATE*	AT COLUMBUS, OHIO	3-1 (W)
OCT. 29	PENN STATE*	AT UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.	1-3 (L)
NOV. 4	MICHIGAN*	NU COLISEUM	3-1 (W)
NOV. 5	MICHIGAN STATE*	NU COLISEUM	3-0 (W)
NOV. 11	INDIANA*	AT BLOOMINGTON, IND.	6 P.M.
NOV. 12	PURDUE*	AT WEST LAFAYETTE, IND.	6 P.M.
NOV. 16	MINNESOTA*	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
NOV. 19	WISCONSIN*	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
NOV. 23	IOWA*	AT IOWA CITY, IOWA	6 P.M.
NOV. 26	NORTHWESTERN*	AT EVANSTON, ILL.	7 P.M.
<i>NCAA TOURNAMENT</i>			
DEC. 1-3	1ST/2ND ROUNDS	AT CAMPUS SITES	TBA
DEC. 9-10	REGIONALS		TBA
(AT LEXINGTON/GAINESVILLE/HONOLULU/MINNEAPOLIS)			
DEC. 15-17	FINAL FOUR	AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	TBA

* BIG TEN MATCH;

ALL TIMES CENTRAL, DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



**BRIGETTE
ROOT**

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

They all have high expectations or they wouldn't be here."

When the Huskers needed her, Root was ready.

"The time was Friday night," John Cook said. "That's when it happened. She did a great job. Nothing she did surprised me."

Root admitted to being a big nervous that week after learning that she would indeed be the starting setter.

"My main focus was on my team," Root said. "Is the team OK? We're still going to practice hard. We're still going to work hard. We're going to do the best we can. We're going to compete and fight. I think our team helping each other took a lot of the tension off. If we have trouble we look to each other. They really helped me a lot."

Root also got help from Lauren Cook on the sidelines along with assistant coach Maggie Griffin, a former Husker setter. The three always meet before matches to

discuss strategy regardless of who is starting. Root said during the match, Lauren Cook was able to point out some of the blocking schemes the opponents were using and that was a big advantage for her.

And it's always good to know the coach has confidence in you.

"Just to know my position coach had that much trust and belief in me was really assuring going into the weekend," Root said. "She was super encouraging and super supportive. She was in a similar position as I when she played. Then her Senior Night she got her start. It was very similar to my situation."

Lauren Cook's legal situation was still up in the air at press time, but that won't affect Root one bit. She'll be ready to go whenever needed.

"Hopefully we can return to normalcy as soon as possible," Root said. "Wherever they need me, I'm ready."

Around THE Horn

| BRIAN ROSENTHAL

THIS ISSUE BASKETBALL



**BO
SPENCER**

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

LEADER IN SPENCER

Louisiana native Bo Spencer had never been to Nebraska. He's not certain he could've told you where the state was.

The one thing he knew about Nebraska? Ndamukong Suh.

But when the phone rang one day and Wes Flanigan was on the other end of the call,

Spencer listened.

The Nebraska men's basketball assistant coach, who'd just joined the Husker staff, had recruited Spencer when Flanigan was at Alabama-Birmingham. Spencer, who'd spent three years at LSU, was looking for a new team, and Nebraska was looking for a point guard.

"I never dreamed that I'd end up here at Nebraska," said Spencer, who didn't fulfill academic requirements at LSU and was dismissed from the basketball team. "Coach (Doc Sadler) gave me the opportunity to come here and get a second chance at playing, and I'm just trying to take full advantage of it."

2011-2012 MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

- #32 Almeida, Andre
6-11 Sr Center
- #21 Diaz, Jorge Brian
6-11 Jr. Center
- #33 Fox, Mike
6-4 Jr. Forward
- #15 Gallegos, Ray
6-2 Jr. Guard
- #12 Hilliard, Corey
6-1 Fr. Guard
- #44 Kurkowski, Kye
6-10 RFr. Center
- #0 McCray, Toney
6-6 Sr. Guard
- #10 Menke, Trevor
5-11 RFr. Guard
- #5 Moore, Josiah
6-5 Fr. Guard
- #14 Niemann, Christopher
6-11 Jr. Center
- #3 Richardson, Brandon
6-0 Sr. Guard
- #2 Rivers, David
6-7 Fr. Guard
- #23 Spencer, Bo
6-2 Sr. Guard
- #24 Talley, Dylan
6-5 Jr. Guard
- #11 Tyrance, Jordan
6-3 RFr. Forward
- #13 Ubel, Brandon
6-10 Jr. Forward
- #25 Walker, Caleb
6-4 Sr. Guard

Spencer, who sat out last season as a transfer, says he's "been getting his books in order" in the classroom, and is ready to make the most of his only season of competition with Nebraska.

"I want to be able to go out with a winning team. Hopefully we can get to the NCAA Tournament. That's my biggest goal," Spencer said. "Try to do some things Nebraska hasn't done for a while in basketball."

Spencer, unlike his Husker teammates, has been to the NCAA Tournament. He started 32 games as a sophomore and led LSU to a first-round victory, before the Tigers lost to eventual national champion North Carolina in the second round.

Many people see Spencer's 14.5 points a game and 61 3-pointers his junior season – he had 11 games of at least 20 points, including 25 points in back-to-back games against Kentucky and Tennessee – and think of the much-needed scoring punch he could provide Nebraska.

Spencer says he'll take open shots and take advantage of any scoring opportunities. Scoring, though, isn't foremost on his mind.

"I really want to try to get into the leadership role and just winning," he said. "I can go out and have

no points and we win the game, and I'll be totally fine with that. I just want to get some wins because that's what it all comes down to."

With that in mind, Spencer has been trying to instill a tough, competitive, winning attitude among his teammates. The kind he learned as a freshman at LSU.

"I had guys like Garrett Temple, Marcus Thornton and Tasmin Mitchell getting on me as a freshman, getting in me, in me, in me," Spencer said. "It made me be competitive. That's the biggest goal, just wanting everyone to be

competitive."

Spencer does so by making anything and everything into a competition with his teammates.

"If I win, I'm gonna gloat about it. I'm going to let you know I won," Spencer said. "I think they got tired of hearing about it. Now they let me know when they win."

Junior forward Brandon Ubel said Spencer has brought a swagger and confidence about him that's much needed at Nebraska.

"He's a natural leader. I don't know what it is about him," Ubel said. "Even though he hadn't played

a game with us and we haven't seen him play a game, we all respect what he has to say."

Sadler says he's seen the same belief and confidence – something the team missed last season.

"I don't know how many guys got on the bus going to Kansas last year thinking we were really going to win that game," Sadler said. "And then when it got down to a minute to go and you're tied, 'Wow, we got close.' Bo would've been one of those guys that said, 'Guys, we're going to win this game,' and believed it when we got on the bus."



DOC SADLER

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



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2011 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sat, Sept. 3	TN at Chattanooga	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 10	Fresno State	6 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 17	Washington	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 24	Wyoming	6:30 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 1	Wisconsin *	7 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 8	Ohio State *	7 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 22	Minnesota *	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Oct. 29	Michigan State *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 5	Northwestern *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 12	Penn State *	TBA
Sat, Nov. 19	Michigan *	TBA
Fri, Nov. 25	Iowa *	11 a.m.

** Conference Games*

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

BLACKSHIRTS TO THE BALL

Nebraska ranked fourth in total defense and rushing defense, 10th in pass defense and second in scoring defense in the 1994 national championship season, allowing just 12.1 points per game. Wyoming scored the most of any opponent that season in a 42-32 loss at Memorial Stadium. Outside linebacker Dwayne Harris (86), WILL linebacker Ed Stewart (32) and rover Kareem Moss (29), all seniors, were among the reasons for the Huskers' defensive success. Harris and Moss earned second-team All-Big Eight recognition while Stewart was a consensus All-American and the conference defensive player of the year. He also was a finalist for the Butkus Award. Stewart was recruited from perennial Chicago prep power Mt. Carmel High and came to Nebraska expecting to play safety, but he was moved to linebacker as the Huskers shifted to an attacking 4-3 base defense. He was initially reluctant to make the move but became a three-year starter, leading the team in tackles as a senior with 96.







25,786

SATISFIED PARTICIPANTS IN 2011



NEBRASKASPORTSCOUNCIL.COM





CATCHING UP WITH CORY SCHLESINGER

BY RANDY YORK

Orange Bowl star, Lions' mainstay now a role model

Cory Schlesinger is 39, married and has two daughters with wife Karen – Natalie, 13, and Leah, 11. They live in Deerborn, Mich., hometown of Henry Ford, and the Duncan, Neb., native enjoys the laid-back, small-town lifestyle that sits right next to a bustling Detroit metropolis. He teaches computer-aided design and home repair and is the strength and conditioning coach at nearby Allen Park High School.

Writing the final chapter of his senior season as an Orange Bowl star, Schlesinger helped put Tom Osborne on the map of national championship coaches with a 15-yard touchdown burst with 7:38 left in the game and then 5 minutes later, ripped off a nearly identical 14-yard touchdown to seal a 24-17 Nebraska victory over Miami. The favored

Hurricanes tired down the stretch, even with a couple of NFL superstars on defense – Ray Lewis and Warren Sapp. After that upset, Schlesinger spent 12 years in the NFL as the fullback and chief body guard for Barry Sanders, one of the greatest NFL backs of all time.

The pride of Columbus, Neb., High School has seen it all and now has one more important notch on his resume – role model – a tag that Jeff Jamrog believes in so strongly that Nebraska's assistant athletic director for football operations asked Schlesinger to share 60-to-90 minutes of his wisdom one night last August when the Huskers started fall camp.

So what did Schlesinger do with that precious time, all by himself, in front of Bo Pelini's fourth Husker team and first

Nebraska squad to compete in the oldest conference in college football? He shot straight from the heart, talking about the biggest lessons he learned at Nebraska -- about passion and balance, humility and hunger and certain things to embrace and avoid.

"Mostly," Schlesinger said, "I talked about leadership and mindset and how we were different than Miami and why we beat them. Our team was successful because we had such passion for the game and never stopped until that last tick on the scoreboard. Miami was about individuals. It was all me, me, me. We were different. It was all team, team, team. We played together, depended on each other and picked each other up when we were down. We didn't celebrate. We didn't get full of ourselves, and we respected every opportunity we had.

"We have the best coaches, the best facilities, the best work ethic and the greatest fans in college football," Schlesinger said,

"Our team was successful because we had such passion for the game and never stopped until that last tick on the scoreboard. Miami was about individuals. It was all me, me, me. We were different. It was all team, team, team."

knowing full well that the Huskers will be playing in the Big House in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Saturday, giving him the opportunity to make the drive and see if the team he addressed can handle one of the toughest road venues in college football.

"I think they will," Schlesinger said. "I like the way Rex Burkhead plays and the leadership he shows. He's just a workhorse and inspires others to work hard. He knows how to ignore the distractions, play physical and put the team ahead of everything else. That's how we won and why they'll win. It's part of our tradition."

IRRESISTIBLE OKLAHOMA MEETS IMMOVABLE NEBRASKA



GAMES REMEMBERED | 1971 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Game of the Century

"Irresistible Force vs. Immovable Object" manages to live up to national hype

SO MUCH HAS been written about this game that Husker fans know the particulars, from Johnny Rodgers opening the scoring with Lyell Bremser's "man, woman and child" punt return to Jeff Kinney's winning touchdown with 1:38 remaining, to cap a 12-play, 74-yard drive, the key play an 11-yard pass from a pressured Jerry Tagge to Rodgers on third-and-8 from the OU 46-yard line.

Often, events don't measure up to what precedes them, but this one did. And there was plenty of build-up for No. 1 versus No. 2. This sums up the game, though written beforehand. It appeared

on page 2 of the official, \$1 game program. The Huskers and Sooners filled in the details.

"Every now and then, college football stages a 'game of the century,' matching the country's best two teams in a live-or-die struggle for supremacy bigger than any bowl game.

"And today, the eyes of the nation focus on Norman, where Nebraska and Oklahoma get together in 1971's 'biggie.' Those eyes, which will watch proceedings via ABC's national television hookup, will witness the old 'Irresistible Force vs. Immovable Object' as Oklahoma's offense tries to puncture Nebraska's

defense before the largest press coverage ever at an Oklahoma game.

"The national championship they contest may be mythical, but there'll be nothing held back on the field today when the crimson and the scarlet clash for all of college football's marbles."

The cover of the Nov. 22, 1971 Sports Illustrated also featured the irresistible-immovable theme, Oklahoma's Wishbone-T offense matched against Nebraska's defense.

The final stats included:

Rushing -	Nebraska 60-298; Oklahoma 62-379
Passing -	Nebraska 6-12-0, 65; Oklahoma 6-1-0, 188
Total Offense -	Nebraska 363 yards; Oklahoma 467 yards
First Downs -	Nebraska 20; Oklahoma 21

NEBRASKA 35, OKLAHOMA 31

Nov. 25, 1971 • Owen Field, Norman, Okla.

Nebraska	7	7	14	7	—	35
Oklahoma	3	14	7	7	—	31

- (N) Johnny Rodgers 72 punt return (Rich Sanger kick)
- (O) John Carroll 30 field goal
- (N) Jeff Kinney 1 run (Sanger kick)
- (O) Jack Mildren 2 run (Carroll kick)
- (O) Jon Harrison 24 pass Mildren (Carroll kick)
- (N) Kinney 3 run (Sanger kick)
- (N) Kinney 1 run (Sanger kick)
- (O) Mildren 3 run (Carroll kick)
- (O) Harrison 16 pass Mildren (Carroll kick)
- (N) Kinney 2 run (Sanger kick, 1:38 remaining)

Attendance: 61,826

DO YOU REMEMBER?

► The Sooners went into the game ranked first nationally in rushing offense and finished the season with an NCAA-record average of 472.4 yards per game. Nebraska finished the season ranked No. 2 in rushing defense, No. 3 in scoring defense and No. 5 in total defense.

► Seventeen of 22 on the Associated Press All-Big Eight team were from either Nebraska or

Oklahoma, nine of them Huskers.

► Eight who played in the game earned All-America honors that season, five of them consensus All-Americans.

► Nebraska had already accepted an invitation to play Alabama in the Orange Bowl, while Oklahoma was matched with Auburn in the Sugar. All four teams were undefeated and untied when they accepted bids. Alabama and Auburn would play each other that weekend.



CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

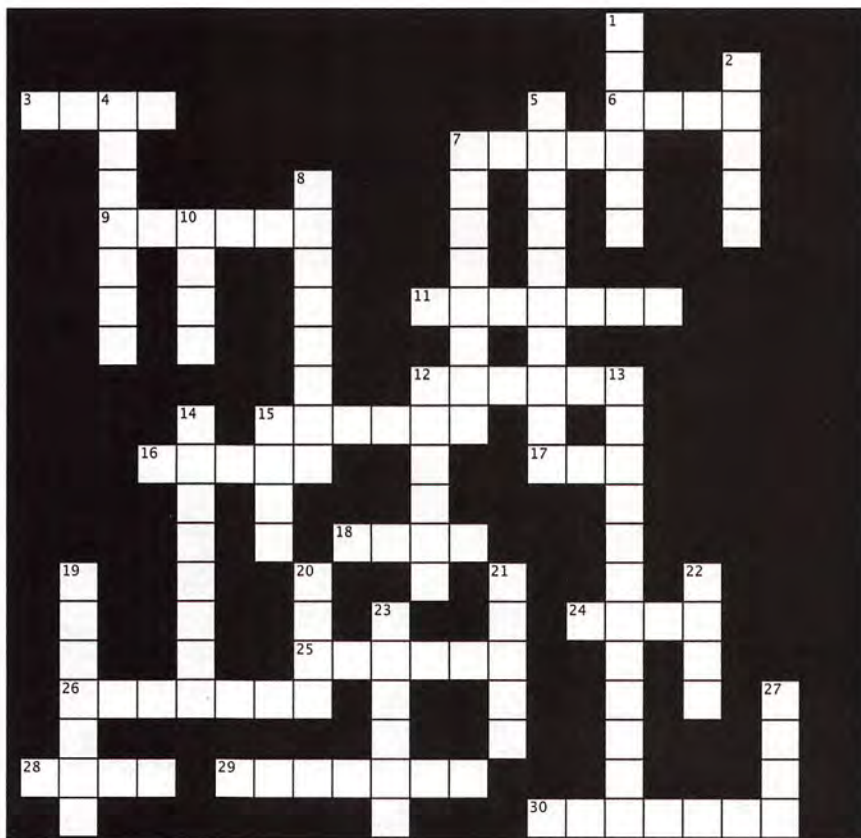
ACROSS

3. Nov. 25 opponent
6. 2012 non-conference opponent
7. Ex-Husker kicker now with St. Louis Rams
9. Wears No. 46 (defense)
11. Leading tackler vs. Northwestern
12. Wears No. 15 (offense)
15. Heisman Trophy winner from Michigan (1991)
16. Wears No. 96
17. 2009 Lombardi Award winner
18. Quarterbacks coach
24. Caught touchdown pass vs. Northwestern
25. 2000 Rimington Award winner
26. Wears No. 15 (defense)
28. Wears No. 41 (offense)
29. Had 50-yard interception return vs. Northwestern
30. Scored first career touchdown vs. Northwestern

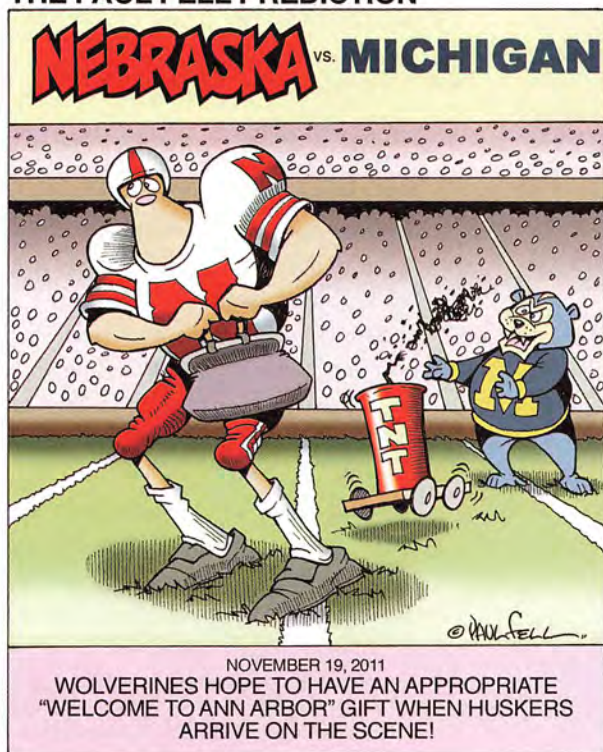
DOWN

1. Wears No. 18 (offense)
2. Michigan's bowl after 2010 season
4. 2013 non-conference opponent
5. Michigan nickname
7. Leading rusher vs. Northwestern
8. Michigan campus location
10. Wears No. 25 (offense)
12. 2001 All-America quarterback
13. Longtime Michigan head coach
14. Tight ends coach
15. Ex-Husker running back now with Washington Redskins
19. Heisman Trophy winner from Michigan (1997)
20. Former president whose Michigan number was retired
21. Wears No. 17 (defense)
22. Michigan school color
23. Leading receiver vs. Northwestern
27. Michigan head coach

Answers will appear in the Nov. 25 issue.



THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION



BRAIN BUSTER

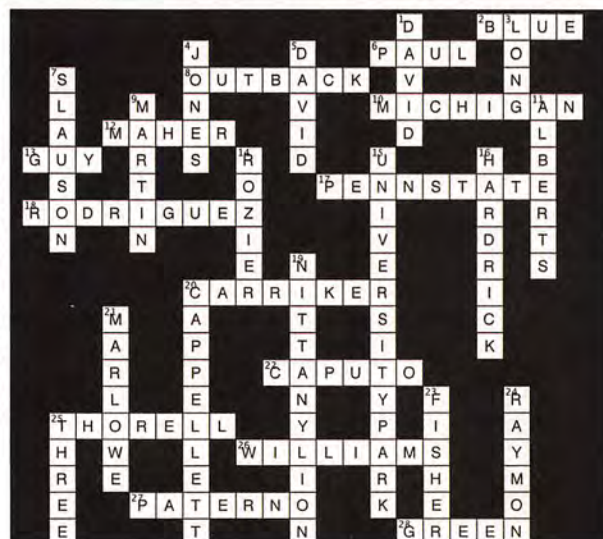
Only two Huskers have ever caught touchdown passes of 90 yards or longer, and one of the two did it twice. Can you name the two, and which of the two did it twice?

- A. Johnny Rodgers & Irving Fryar
- B. Matt Herian & Richard Bell
- C. Richard Bell & Von Sheppard
- D. Freeman White & Ross Pilkington
- E. Craig Johnson & Frantz Hardy

Answer will appear in our next issue

NOV. 12 ANSWER: B. Johnny Rodgers caught a pass in every game during his career, 37 C. Nate Swift

NOV. 5 SOLUTION



Emotional Pelini displays proof that life is bigger than game

BY MIKE BABCOCK

The week leading up to the Nebraska-Penn State football game was one of turmoil, caused by lack of responsibility in a time of moral crisis. It was about the human condition.

You can say that's being overly dramatic. But that's your opinion. And I'm entitled to mine.

It involved football coaches, but transcended football. And more to the point here, it provided a context for revealing the character of those involved, players and coaches and fans.

There were as many stories on this pleasant November afternoon as the number of those who came to Beaver Stadium, to compete or to watch – as well as some who weren't there.

As with any column, this is selective in focus, in this case Bo Pelini. Following the game, he left no doubt about his priorities, nor his sincerity in expressing them.

Pelini spoke for 12½ minutes, the majority not about the game. In fact, had the decision been his, it wouldn't have been played. But more, in his words, shortly.

He began by addressing the pre-game prayer, led by Huskers running backs coach Ron Brown, involving both teams at mid-field and lasting at least a couple of minutes.

"I thought it was the right thing to do," Pelini said. "I thought a show of solidarity was something that was probably pretty sorely needed in a situation that everybody's facing."

The situation has been well-documented and deserves no further mention, moral and criminal ugliness in stark contrast to the nickname of Penn State's scenic home, Happy Valley.

And because of that ugliness, "I'll be honest with you, going into the football game, I didn't think the game should have been played . . . you know, for a lot of different reasons," said Pelini.

"My job as a football coach is to educate and to prepare the kids who come into the program for the rest of their life. And that's what we are. We're a university system."

The university exists to educate, and football exists within that system, a



**The univer-
sity exists
to educate,
and foot-
ball exists
within that
system, a
relationship
that can
sometimes
be lost.**

relationship that can sometimes be lost. What happened at Penn State was "bigger than football. It was bigger than that game that was just played," he said. "It was bigger than the young men in the game who would have missed it had they called it off. It's about education, about people putting in perspective what the situation's all about. And hopefully, you know, at least the fact that both the teams . . . sat down and prayed together, maybe that put that in perspective a little bit."

There was concern the victims would be forgotten in the emotion of the game, which had championship ramifications for both teams. At the end of the day, however, the issue was "about doing what's right," Pelini said. "It's about society, and it's about right and wrong. And trust me when I tell you, I don't know the specifics of the situation, and I'm not judging anybody."

"But the fact is, young kids were hurt, and that's a crime in itself, and it's something . . ."

The emotion of the subject was underscored by his stops and starts. "Like I said, it's a lot bigger than football. It's a lot bigger than the NCAA, the Big Ten or anything else," he said.

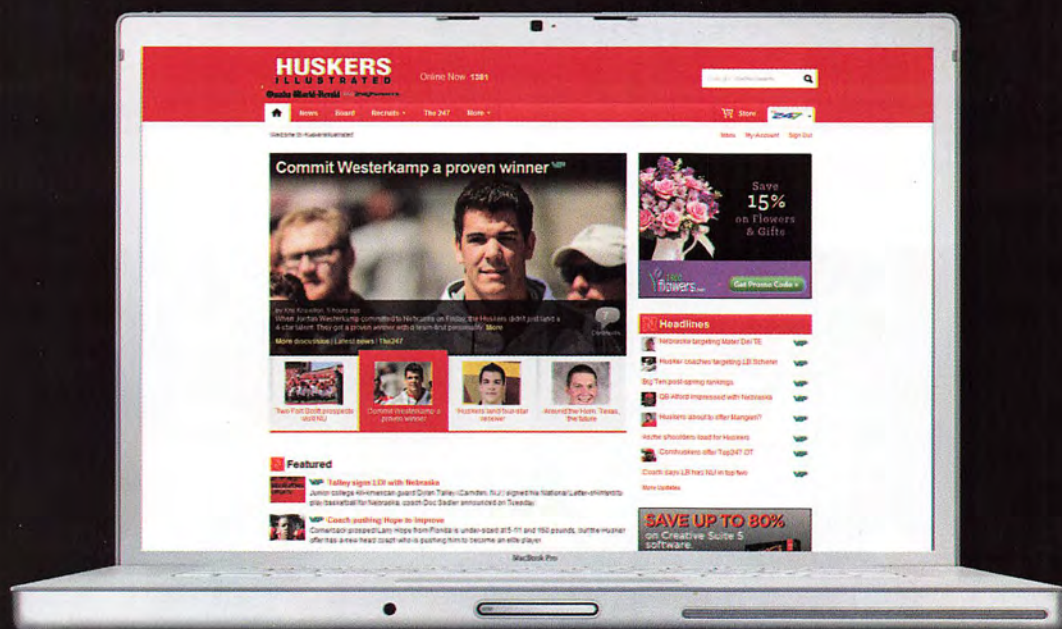
"That's why, in the end, going in, I didn't think the game should have been played. But with it being played, I thought that kneeling down and praying, and both teams coming together, was the right thing to do, and hopefully, that in itself made a statement."

Pelini's team made a statement in winning, battling through the fatigue of a long first season in the Big Ten. The players also made a statement by kneeling together in prayer.

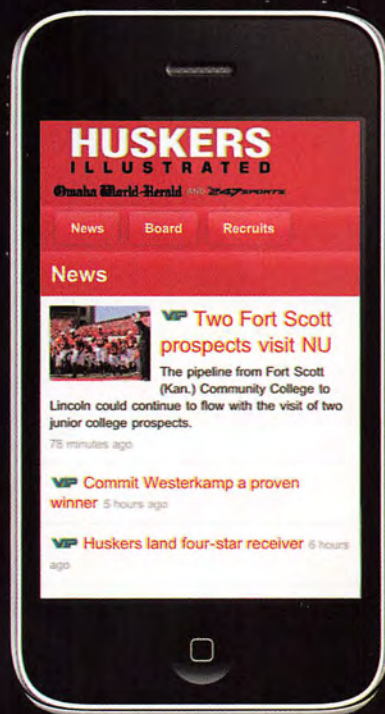
Pelini made a statement, too, much more important than his team's eighth victory, which, as it turns out, came in a game he wouldn't have played had that decision been his to make.

Oh yes, the final score was 17-14. **N**

You can also read Mike Babcock each week at HuskersIllustrated.com.



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